intensity such as agriculture, agro and rural industries, rural infrastructure, small and the decentralised manufacturing sector, urban informal sector and services is a thrust area in the Eighth Plan. New Employment Schemes such as Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and a Two-Million Job Scheme of the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) have been introduced in the Eighth Plan period besides continuing the on-going schemes like IRDP, JRY and NRY. The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme (IUPAP) has integration of employment generation with the provision of basic services to the poorer segments of the population as one of its basic features.

Role of Inter-State Council in Centre-State Relations

61. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend Article 74 of the Constitution to ensure that, where issues involving Centre-State relations are concerned, the President, in addition to seeking the advice and guidance of the Union Council of Ministers, will also consult members of the Inter-State Council;

(b) whether other constitutional amendments are also contemplated to ensure that appointments to the post of Governors receive the imprimatur of approval of the Inter-State Coucil; and

(c) whether a further amendment is proposed to ensure that the Inter-State Council has a say in the selection of the Chairman and other members of the Finance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) The Inter-State Council set up by the President under article 263 of the Constitution is, at present, considering the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission Report. According to the information available, the Sarkaria Commission has not made any recommendation proposing that the Inter-State Council's members should also be consulted by amending article 74 of the Constitution. The Sarkaria Commission has not also made any recommendation on any such Constitutional amendments referred to in parts (b) and (c) of the question.

Alternative to Prison Sentence

62. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers, in a Conference held on 13.11.1992 at New Delhi, had adopted a proposal to explore alternative to the prison sentence;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to amend the Law to implement the proposal; if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether such an amendment would not only bring down prevent corruption in the police administration but also reduce congestion in jails and give opportunity to the people to improve their conduct;

(d) whether there is a provision to this effect in the Cr.P.C.; and

(e) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of the relevent provision of Cr.P.C.?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (e) The Chief Minister's Conference held on 13.11.1992 at New Delhi had adopted a proposal to explore alternatives to prison sentences by depenalisation and de-institutionalisation.

The Government has been advising the State Governments on improving various facets of Jail Administration including that of exploring alternatives to prison sentences. These improvements would certainly bring down prevalent malpractices and reduce congestion in jails. The Government is interacting with the Law Commission on a proposal to amend section 53 of the I.P.C. to provide